

REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of the claims 2 and 31 are respectfully requested. Claims 3-14, 32-37, and 39-45 are allowed and claims 1, 29, and 38 would be allowable if the objection for minor informalities is overcome. Additionally, claims 15-28 and 30 have been cancelled without prejudice.

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) for not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Applicants respectfully assert that Fig. 5 depicts the armor layer 15 as set forth in claims 17 and 19. Additionally, applicants submit herewith proposed corrections to Fig. 7. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

The specification was objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(d)(1) for failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. The specification has been amended to provide antecedent basis therein. Additionally, no new subject matter has been added to the specification because the subject matter is contained in the patent application as originally filed. Withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 29, 31, and 38 were objected to for informalities. Claims 1, 29, 31, and 38 have been amended for clarity. Moreover, the amendment of claims 1, 29, 31, and 38 is not an admission that the art of record teaches, discloses, or otherwise suggests the features of the claims. Withdrawal of the objection to claims 1, 29, 31, and 38 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 15, 17-28 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. sec. 112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement. The specification has been amended. Withdrawal of the sec. 112 rejection, first paragraph, of claims 2 and 31 is respectfully requested.

Claims 15 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. sec. 102(b)

10/724,445

C0034

Page 10

applying U.S. Pat. No. 6,037,546 (the '546 patent). Claims 15 and 23 have been cancelled without prejudice. The withdrawal of the sec. 102(b) rejection of claims 15 and 23 is warranted and respectfully requested.

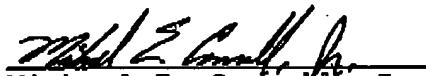
Claims 17-19, 22, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. sec. 103(a) applying the '546 patent in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,049,647 (the '647 patent). Claims 17-19, 22, and 24 have been cancelled without prejudice. The withdrawal of the sec. 102(b) rejection of claims 17-19, 22, and 24 is warranted and respectfully requested.

No fees are believed due in connection with this Reply. If any fees are due in connection with this Reply, please charge any fees, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 19-2167.

Allowance of all pending claims is believed to be warranted and is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is welcomed to telephone the undersigned to discuss the merits of this patent application.

Respectfully submitted,


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